

REMARKS

General Comments

In the current Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges Applicants' claim for foreign priority and the receipt of the priority document. The Examiner has also considered the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statements filed August 22, 2001, December 2, 2003 and February 3, 2004.

Applicants note that the Examiner has failed to consider the references cited in the October 16, 2001 IDS. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner consider these references and return a signed and initialed copy of the corresponding PTO-Form 1490 with the next Office Action.

Claims. With this Amendment, Applicants amend Claims 1-8 and 10 and cancel Claim 9. Therefore, Claims 1-8 and 10 are all the claims currently pending in the present application.

Claims 1, 2, 6-8, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Larsson et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,697,638 ("Larsson"). Claims 3-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Larsson, in view of Bell, U.S. Patent No. 6,600,902 ("Bell"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections as discussed below.

Claim 1

With respect to the Examiner's §102(e) rejection of Claim 1 over Larsson, Applicants respectfully submit that Larsson fails to disclose or suggest recalling and comparing device identification information, as claimed.

Larsson discloses a car kit receiving device identification information (Bluetooth addresses) contained within inquiry responses at step 1108 of Fig. 8, and col. 5, lns. 37-42. However, Larsson fails to disclose or suggest device identification information transferred prior to this step. Therefore there is no device identification information which the car kit of Larsson can recall to compare to the device identification information received within the inquiry responses at step 1108.

Further, Applicants submit that Larsson fails to disclose or suggest establishing a link on the basis of a match between transferred device identification information of a communication device of a connection request source and identification information contained in a received inquiry response, as claimed. As discussed, Larsson fails to disclose or suggest recalling and comparing device identification information. Therefore, Larsson also fails to disclose or suggest a match, or establishing a link on the basis of a match, as claimed.

Therefore, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is not anticipated by Larsson, and respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 1 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 2-10

In view of the above arguments with respect to Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-8 and 10 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence on Claim 1, and for the following additional reasons.

Claim 4 over Larsson and Bell. With respect to the Examiner's rejection of Claim 4 over Larsson and Bell, Applicants additionally submit that the combination of Larsson and Bell fails to teach or suggest infrared communication using a connectionless service, as claimed.

The Examiner acknowledges that Larsson fails to teach infrared communication, and instead refers to col. 2, lns. 27-52 of Bell as teaching this limitation. This portion of Bell discusses the IrDA standard of the IrDA Object Exchange Specification, and the commands, CONNECT, PUT, GET, and DISCONNECT, used to exchange data. There is no disclosure in this, or any other portion of Bell of infrared communication using a connectionless service. In fact, the commands described imply that there is a connection and a disconnection, implying that this is a connection based communication.

Claim 8 over Larsson. With respect to the Examiner's rejection of Claim 8 over Larsson, Applicants additionally submit that Larsson fails to disclose or suggest causing the communication device of the connection request source to face the communication device of the connection request destination, as claimed.

The Examiner refers to col. 5, lns. 35-39 of Larsson to teach this limitation. This portion of Larsson describes that a handset is held within a few inches of a car kit. However, contrary to the implication of the Examiner, holding a device close to another device is not the same as causing a device to face another device. The handset of Larsson could easily be held close to the car kit without being made to face the car kit, and there is no disclosure or suggestion in Larsson of causing one device to face another device.

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Claim 10 over Larsson. With respect to the Examiner's rejection of Claim 10 over Larsson, Applicants submit that Claim 10 is additionally patentable at least by virtue of its dependence on Claims 8 and 9, and for the following reasons.

Larsson fails to disclose or suggest transmitting an inquiry request to all communication devices, if no device identification information is transferred within a predetermined time during a transferring step. The Examiner refers to col. 4, lns. 48-51 and col. 5, lns. 10-15 of Larsson as disclosing this limitation. These portions of Larsson describe the car kit paging only those Bluetooth devices which are on its list and the car kit scanning for inquiries. Paging only those devices which are on a list is not transmitting an inquiry request to all communication devices, as required. Also, scanning for inquiries is not equivalent to transmitting an inquiry request, as required. Further, no other portion of Larsson discloses or suggests transmitting an inquiry request to all communication devices when no device information is transferred, or performing any action based on a predetermined amount of time, as required by Claim 10.

Larson also fails to disclose or suggest notifying a user of pieces of device identification information, as claimed. The Examiner refers to col. 5, lns. 24-27 as disclosing this limitation. This portion of Larsson describes a handset displaying information, received from the car kit, to a user. The displayed information includes the car registration number, which is not contained in a received inquiry response, as claimed. The handset of Larsson does not receive inquiry responses returned from communication devices, and therefore could not display identification information contained in received inquiry responses. No other portion of Larsson discloses or suggests the display of any information or any notification to a user.

Summary Claims 2-10. For at least all of the reasons presented above, Applicants submit that Claims 2, 6-8, and 10 are patentable over Larsson, and that Claims 3-5 are patentable over the combination of Larsson and Bell. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner's rejections of Claims 2-10 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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